

get jobs easily, and maybe once a week somebody in there helping them out, somebody like Becky Trudeau or something, where they won't have to go five different places to look for a job, they can just go there and have one place to look.

We feel that it should have a computer room, with Internet access. A lot of people work right after school, and they have to be there around 3:30, including us. And we don't have the time to go after school and work on the computers to get an essay done, so we feel that it should have computers where it will be available for us after work.

We think there should be recreational rooms, including a gym, a game room. Also special events, such as, once a month, a dance or some sort like that. We also think there should be a lounge so that we can relax and watch TV.

Congressman SANDERS: Good. Linh, do you want to begin?

LINH NGUYEN: My name is Linh Nguyen. We would like to ask for continued support in finding out how we should embark on this teen center and after school program. We strongly believe this would make the Old North End a better place for teens, and not only the teens, but the community as a whole. We would, as well, be a model to replicate in the rest of Vermont.

Congressman SANDERS: Thank you very much. Thank you all very much.

REMEMBERING THE FLOOD VICTIMS OF FORT COLLINS AND LARIMER COUNTY, COLORADO

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recall Monday, July 28, 1997 and to describe to the House, one year later, a natural disaster which occurred in Colorado on this date, when an intense storm produced record amounts of rainfall in Fort Collins and unincorporated Larimer County, Colorado. The storm devastated area residents as they watched their homes, schools, and churches roll into the immense current which swept through their city. However, the loss far more costly was that of human life. JoAnn Roth, Rose Marie Rodriguez, Sarah Payne, Estafana Guarneros, and Cindy Schulz died as they attempted to escape the storm. Although this event caused a multitude of pain and sorrow, it also enabled members of our community to reach out to one another as individuals struggled to put the pieces of their lives back in place. As a Member of Congress representing Colorado's Fourth District where citizens worked together to restore their way of life, I hereby commemorate the victory achieved through this widespread community spirit and recall the names of those who perished.

As we reflect on the events of the past year, we recall the words of Luke 8:23-24, "... A windstorm swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. They went to him and woke him up, shouting, 'Master, Master, we are perishing!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm."

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4194) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. STARK. Mr. Chairman, today I join with Congressman TIM ROEMER and Congressman DAVE CAMP to take a stand for common sense and fiscal responsibility when it comes to our budget.

When Congress first approved the International Space Station in 1984, the original price tag was \$8 billion. A recent General Accounting Office [GAO] report projects the station's total operating costs at \$95.6 billion. Congress keeps throwing taxpayer dollars into this money pit, and we have no tangible benefits to show for it.

Since its conception in 1984, the station has been redesigned three times. The latest model would accomplish only two of its eight original scientific missions. Furthermore, many of the remaining goals envisioned for the station could be accomplished aboard unmanned satellites or aboard the space shuttle for a small fraction of the cost.

Furthermore, the station's rising costs are a threat to other promising projects. Already, NASA has shifted \$200 million from other programs like space shuttle safety and space education grants to pay for station cost overruns. This year, NASA has requested the authority to shift an additional \$375 million. As the station experiences more cost overruns, the space station budget will literally consume the NASA budget at the expense of proven programs like probes within our solar system, the Space Shuttle, earth sciences, and aeronautics.

Every year we pour billions upon billions of dollars into NASA and the International Space Station at the expense of schoolchildren, the elderly and the infirm. We cannot afford the price of the space station when we have such pressing needs here on planet Earth. If we choose to look to the stars, we must first have our feet planted firmly on the ground.

THE LONG TERM CARE ADVANCEMENT ACT OF 1998

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the aging of the Baby Boom generation has been extensively discussed in Congress and among the American people, with particular attention to the impact on Social Security and Medicare.

What has not been widely discussed, however, is a related but very distinct trend: the rapid expansion of the group of Americans defined by the Bureau of the Census as "the oldest old"—those senior citizens aged 85 and above. Often lost during discussions of the Baby Boom generation is the fact that the fastest growing demographic age group in the United States is the "oldest old."

That is why I am introducing legislation, joined by my colleagues Phil English (PA), Ron Paul (TX), John Ensign (NV), and Chris Shays (CT) to help Americans better prepare themselves and their families for their long term health care needs of the future. The tax breaks contained in this legislation will go a long way towards providing families with peace and security against the massive costs of professionally provided long term care, including nursing home care, home health care, and adult day care services.

I am pleased that this legislation has already secured the support of the 60 Plus Association and the Home Health Assembly of New Jersey. The Health Insurance Association of America (HIAA) has also endorsed the concept behind the bill.

Our Nation will soon be grappling with a long term care crisis unless Congress acts now to prevent it. From 1960 through 1994, the senior citizen population (age 85+) increased by 274 percent. And the number of Americans in the 85+ age cohort is expected to double in size by the year 2020, reaching 7 million. The number of senior citizens between the ages of 75 and 84 will reach nearly 15.5 million by 2020. The sixty four thousand dollar question is: how will we as a nation meet our parents' and grandparents' long-term care need?

This demographic change will put an enormous strain on our nation's fragmented system of long-term care. Already, our Medicaid program has demonstrated its financial shortcomings when providing long-term care services to increasing numbers of the frail elderly. The Medicaid program already spends over \$40 billion on long term care services for senior citizens. These expenditures are projected to double over the next 10 years.

A vital part of any comprehensive response to these trends must be the promotion of private long term care insurance (LTC) for Americans. Although the number of persons insured under LTC policies has nearly doubled between 1992 and 1996, this growth is from a very low base. The fact of the matter is that the overwhelming majority of Americans still do not have any private LTC insurance coverage at all. This needs to change, and soon.

Mr. Speaker, the Long Term Care Advancement Act of 1998 will assist Americans prepare for their future long term care needs. My bill will allow penalty-free withdrawal from IRAs and 401 (k) plans when the funds are used to pay for 'qualified' LTC insurance premiums (as defined by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996).

In addition, a certain portion of the IRA/401 (k) withdrawals used for LTC will be excluded from taxable income. Depending on one's tax bracket, age, and type of policy purchased, the savings on a long term care insurance policy under my bill are considerable, and could range from 15 to 25 percent.

Lastly, the Long Term Care Advancement Act will provide a refundable \$500 tax credit for families caring for a dependent elderly

spouse or parent in the home. This tax credit is important because most of the long term care provided in America is provided by families in the home, and these families desperately need and deserve tax relief.

By encouraging more Americans to plan for their future care needs I believe we can improve the medical, social, and financial well being of families, as well as provide substantial future savings to the Medicaid and Medicare programs. According to the John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company, there is a 48% chance of any given individual of needing long term care in one's lifetime. And the costs of nursing home care for one year is approximately \$40,000. The potential for savings to American families, as well as the Medicaid and Medicare programs, by encouraging families to purchase LTC insurance is simply enormous.

I look forward to working on and discussing long term care issues with my colleagues during the remainder of the 105th Congress, and urge all of my colleagues to support this important initiative.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Capitol Police Officers John Gibson and Jacob Chestnut who gave their lives last week in a vicious attack by a deranged gunman.

My heart goes out to the families of these officers, both of whom spent 18 years in courageous and devoted service to their country as members of the Capitol Police. They gave their lives, not only protecting Members of Congress, but the thousands of Americans and foreign visitors to this great monument, the people's house of government.

Officers Gibson and Chestnut were both known as kind, personable men who were especially devoted to their families. They performed their jobs with a special kind of pride in playing a small part in the smooth and efficient conduct of the processes of government.

As we go about our business in the Capitol, we tend to take for granted the freedom and protection we enjoy because of the selfless contributions of our Capitol Police who are constantly on guard against the type of insane acts which took the lives of Officers Chestnut and Gibson and wounded an innocent civilian.

This horrible act reminds us once again of the debt we owe to those officers who do their jobs daily in protecting those who work here and those who visit. With few exceptions, problems, large and small, are prevented so we are left free and comfortable to perform our jobs in peace.

We owe these men and their families a great debt of gratitude for their sacrifice. They will not be forgotten and their contributions will be forever recognized by the Members of the House of Representatives.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to help express my thoughts to the families of slain Capitol police officers John Gibson and Jacob Chestnut. I say "help express" because there is no total way to thank these men for laying down their lives for others. I would defer to the words of my wife, Freda, for these remarks, in the joint letter she sent to the Gibson and Chestnut families.

To the families of Officer John Gibson and Officer Jacob Chestnut:

My heart today is filled with a tremendous sense of debt and gratitude to your fathers and husbands and the sacrifice they have made. Scripture tells us in John 15:13, "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friend." Indeed, we consider each officer at the Capitol a friend. Daily we give thanks for their constant careful watch of the members of congress and the millions of visiting tourists. Last night as we welcomed my husband, Congressman Donald Manzullo, home we breathed a prayer of thanksgiving for his safe return. But also your families and great loss were uppermost in our thoughts. Our heartfelt thanks pour out to you. Our sorrow at your loss is overwhelming. Another scripture comes to mind, one that I believe the Lord said as he received your loved ones into this eternal kingdom, "Well done, good and faithful servants; you were faithful with a few things; enter into the joy of your master," Matthew 25:23.

With love and gratitude,[±]
FRED A. MANZULLO.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the two men who gave their last full measure of devotion in defense of the people's House, the U.S. Congress.

Capitol Police Officers John Gibson and J.J. Chestnut leave behind friends and family who will mourn their sacrifice for years to come. Today, a grateful Nation mourns with them.

Thousands of Americans are paying tribute as we speak, filing past their caskets in the Capitol Rotunda just a few hundred feet from where they died.

In the last few days, we've learned a great deal about Officers Gibson and Chestnut—their love of family and country, the many kindnesses they showed over the years to everyone on Capitol Hill, from committee chairmen to wandering tourists.

The focus on the lives of these two courageous men has been a poignant reminder of what America is really all about.

In death, Officers Gibson and Chestnut have been hailed as heroes, but they were quiet heroes each and every day of their lives. They symbolize what all of us strive to achieve.

J.J. Chestnut served his country in Vietnam, raised five children, loved gardening, and helped raise money in his neighborhood for college scholarships. He and his wife were often seen bicycling around their home in Fort Washington, MD.

John Gibson, from the great State of Massachusetts, suffered from the regional malady known as Red Sox Fever and shared his tragic affliction with all who would listen.

John was married to the niece of my good friend and colleague JOE MOAKLEY. A deeply religious man, John was devoted to his wife and their three teenage children and worked hard to give them a stable and loving home. In the Lake Ridge neighborhood of Woodbridge, VA, John was known for an easy smile, a generous laugh, and the best-kept lawn on the street.

In some ways, these were ordinary men leading ordinary lives. But when duty called, they acted in extraordinary fashion. They acted just the way all who knew them always expected they would.

Every one of us in this chamber owes them a special debt of gratitude. They served the Congress faithfully. They served the country faithfully. They swore an oath to protect and serve, and they died as they lived—holding true to those vows.

There is nothing we can say or do to diminish the loss felt by those who loved these men and knew them best. But at one time or another, we have all lost friends, we have all lost brothers, we have all lost fathers, and so we share their loss as well.

And today, we pause to remember not just what we have lost, but what Officers Gibson and Chestnut gave to each and every one of us: a lesson of bravery and courage under fire and a reminder of the greatest love of all—that of laying your life down for others.

That's what these quiet heroes did. I'm grateful for the opportunity for us to come together as a Nation, here in the temple of democracy they gave their lives to defend, to offer them a final salute.

My heart goes out to their families and all those who feel their loss most of all.

Finally, I hope this tragic incident makes us look inside as a Nation to recognize the real meaning of Heroism—the selfless work that goes on each and every day by those who take an oath to protect us.

I would ask that we look around us today and take a moment to appreciate the men and women of our law enforcement community who serve with courage and devotion.

They are police officers and firefighters, soldiers and sailors, secret service and FBI agents. And, as we know too well, they are also mothers and fathers, husbands, sons, and daughters. Some serve in uniform, some do not, but each and every one carries the same badge of honor, and we should never, never, take them for granted.

Because of the sacrifice of Officers Gibson and Chestnut, I know I never will.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, Officers Jacob J. Chestnut and John M. Gibson are